



## Public Safety Advisory Committee

### WHAT IS THE FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY (FIRSTNET)?

Signed into law on February 22, 2012, the [Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act \(Act\)](#) created the [First Responder Network Authority \(FirstNet\)](#). The law gives FirstNet the mission to ensure the building, deployment, operation, and maintenance of the first high-speed, nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety. FirstNet will provide a single interoperable platform for emergency and daily public safety data communications.

FirstNet is an independent authority within the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration. FirstNet is governed by a 15 member Board consisting of the Attorney General of the United States, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and 12 members appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. The FirstNet Board is composed of representatives from public safety; local, state and federal government; and the wireless industry.

### WHAT IS THE PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PSAC)?

Under the Act, FirstNet was required to establish a [Public Safety Advisory Committee \(PSAC\)](#). The PSAC consists of 43 members who represent organizations from all disciplines of public safety as well as local, state, territorial, tribal, and federal governments. There are also at large members.

The mission of the PSAC is to assist FirstNet in carrying out its duties to ensure the building, deployment, operation, and maintenance of the nationwide public safety broadband network (NPSBN) in matters involving shared intergovernmental responsibilities or administration. Specifically, the PSAC:

- Offers FirstNet guidance, information, and subject matter expertise, from a public safety perspective, to ensure that needs, requirements, and operational constructs necessary for critical public safety capabilities are included in the envisioned network
- Provides subject matter expertise on concepts (e.g., policies, procedures, technologies, operational methods, etc.) developed by FirstNet
- Conducts regular meetings to remain informed and up to date on FirstNet's progress

## WHAT ARE THE CURRENT PSAC EFFORTS?

Participation as subject matter experts on task teams and working groups is topic specific and continues until final reports or recommendations have been submitted to FirstNet by the PSAC Chair after receiving input/feedback from the full committee. Current ongoing efforts include:

### Working Groups

**Early Builders Working Group:** An Early Builders Working Group (EBWG) comprised of representatives from Adams County, Colorado; Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS), California, Texas, New Mexico, and New Jersey was established to provide FirstNet with early builder strategies and lessons learned that will assist in planning efforts for the NPSBN.

**Tribal Working Group:** A Tribal Working Group (TWG), comprised of volunteer delegates from associations with diverse geographic and disciplinary interests in tribal public safety, was established to provide advice on Indian Country outreach, education, and inclusive engagement strategies. FirstNet's intent is to inform and involve federally recognized tribes in planning for and deployment of the FirstNet network. The TWG provides unique and valuable perspective to FirstNet's Board and staff, as well as to state single points of contact (SPOCs). They meet monthly via teleconference, along with several in-person meetings each year.

**Federal Working Group:** A Federal Working Group (FWG) consisting of federal practitioners from across all public safety disciplines on operational activities is being established to further integrate FirstNet's federal outreach and consultation activities with the PSAC's work and drive planning efforts for the NPSBN.

## WHAT ASSIGNMENTS HAS THE PSAC COMPLETED?

**Identity, Credential and Access Management (ICAM):** The ICAM task team explored issues that public safety agencies experience today due to the lack of an interoperable ICAM solution; documented recommended initial governance rules for ICAM use in public safety; established a proposed framework for onboarding agencies into the use of federated identity; and examined potential working ICAM solutions. These recommendations will be essential as FirstNet explores ICAM-enabling technologies to uncover potential risks or roadblocks.

**Local Control:** The Local Control task team provided recommendations to further define and refine the operational requirements of FirstNet's Local Control application. FirstNet remains particularly interested in the PSAC's advice when developing governance of the use of quality of service, priority and preemption (QPP) by public safety and sharing such governance with the user community.

**Priority and Preemption:** Provided advice and recommendations on an initial framework for implementing access prioritization, user preemption, and application prioritization on the nationwide public safety broadband network (NPSBN).

**Public Safety Grade:** Provided advice and recommendations on an initial methodology and framework for prioritizing and implementing public safety grade hardening recommendations for the NPSBN.

**User Equipment:** Provided advice and recommendations on functional objectives for and ergonomic considerations of Band 14 broadband user equipment that will meet the operational needs of first responders.

**Human Factors:** The PSAC analyzed the long range impacts of the NPSBN on the manner law enforcement, fire, EMS, and public safety communications centers operate and how they may be better served in addressing their duties once the network is built and operating. The Human Factors Report is available on the FirstNet website.

**Application/Use Cases:** The PSAC developed use cases to illustrate how the envisioned technology, network, and applications will support the incident response by discipline (e.g., law enforcement, fire, and EMS). These use cases, available on the FirstNet website, were incorporated into design modeling efforts conducted by the FirstNet technical staff.

**Eligible Users:** The PSAC developed a list of proposed eligible users of the NPSBN and related definitions, which was used to inform the public notices FirstNet released related to the definition and scope of public safety entities qualifying for use of the NPSBN.

#### **WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ON THE PSAC?**

For questions on the PSAC and its activities, please contact [PSAC@firstnet.gov](mailto:PSAC@firstnet.gov) or visit the [FirstNet website](http://firstnet.gov).

## FirstNet Board

Chair Sue Swenson  
 Vice Chair Jeff Johnson  
 Secretary of Homeland Security (Designee Suzanne Spaulding)  
 U.S. Attorney General (Designee Amy Hess)  
 Director of Office of Management and Budget (Designee David Mader)  
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### FirstNet Staff

Mike Poth, CEO  
 TJ Kennedy, President  
 Rich Reed, CCO

### PSAC Executive Committee

PSAC Chair Harlin McEwen (Police-IACP)  
 PSAC Vice Chair Niles Ford (Fire Service-Metro Chiefs)  
 PSAC Vice Chair Paul Patrick (EMS-NASEMSO)  
 PSAC Vice Chair Jimmy Gianato (State-NGA)  
 PSAC Vice Chair Tom Sorley (Local-USCM)

### Public Safety Advisory Committee (43 Members)

#### Early Builders Working Group

EC Liaison Tom Sorley  
 Texas (TX) – Todd Early, CHAIR  
 New Mexico (NM) – Darryl Ackley, VICE  
 CHAIR  
 Adams County (CO)—Scott Lane  
 Los Angeles-RICS (CA)—Pat Mallon  
 New Jersey (NJ)—Fred Scalera

#### Tribal Working Group

EC Liaison Paul Patrick  
 NCAI—Dennis Dyer, CHAIR  
 ATNI—Randell Harris, VICE CHAIR  
 AITC—Heather Hudson, Ph.D  
 APHA-AI/AN/NH—Michael Bird  
 ARA—Gerad Godfrey  
 IACP-ICLES—Pending  
 IAEM-TAC—Raymond Kennedy  
 NN —Teresa Hopkins  
 NNAFCA—Mark Openshaw  
 NTEMC—Robert DesRosier  
 NWTEMC—Richard Flores  
 SCTCA—Robert Clark  
 TCC—Pending  
 USET—Harrell French  
 \*see page 6 for acronyms\*

#### Federal Working Group

TBD

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## PSAC Executive Committee

PSAC Chair Harlin McEwen (Police-IACP)  
 PSAC Vice Chair Niles Ford (Fire Service-Metro Chiefs)  
 PSAC Vice Chair Paul Patrick (EMS-NASEMSO)  
 PSAC Vice Chair Jimmy Gianato (State-NGA)  
 PSAC Vice Chair Tom Sorley (Local-USCM)

1.	AASHTO	American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials	Paul J. Steinman
2.	APCO	Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International	Brent Lee
3.	APWA	American Public Works Association	Philip R. Mann
4.	FCCA	Forestry Conservation Communications Association	Lloyd Mitchell
5.	GHSCA	Governors Homeland Security Advisors Council	Guy Cameron
6.	IAB	Interagency Board	Captain Chris Lombard
7.	IACP	International Association of Chiefs of Police	Chief Harlin McEwen
8.	IAEM	International Association of Emergency Managers	Joseph R. Sastre
9.	IAFC	International Association of Fire Chiefs	Chief Gary McCarraher
10.	ICMA	International City/County Management Association	Mark L. Ryckman
11.	IMSA	International Municipal Signal Association	Paul Szoc
12.	MCCA	Major Cities (Police) Chiefs Association	Commander Steve Smith
13.	MCSA	Major County Sheriffs' Association	Mel Maier
14.	Metro Chiefs	Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association	Chief Niles Ford
15.	NACo	National Association of Counties	Len Humphries
16.	NAEMT	National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians	Don Lundy
17.	NARC	National Association of Regional Councils	Steve Cassano
18.	NASCIO	National Association of State Chief Information Officers	Darryl Ackley
19.	NASEMSO	National Association of State EMS Officials	Paul R. Patrick
20.	NASNA	National Association of State 9-1-1 Administrators	Richard Taylor
21.	NASTD	National Association of State Technology Directors	Charlie Sasser
22.	NATOA	National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors	Barry Fraser
23.	NCAI	National Congress of American Indians	Dennis Dyer
24.	NCJA	National Criminal Justice Association	John M. Sweeney
25.	NCSL	National Conference of State Legislators	Daniel A. Eaton
26.	NCSWIC	National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators	Todd Early
27.	NEMA	National Emergency Management Association	Jeff Stern
28.	NEMSMA	National EMS Management Association	Jonathan Olson
29.	NENA	National Emergency Number Association	Trey Forgety
30.	NGA	National Governors Association	Jimmy Gianato
31.	NLC	National League of Cities	Tony Anderson
32.	Nlets	The International Justice and Public Safety Network	Steve Correll
33.	NPSTC	National Public Safety Telecommunications Council	Chief Douglas Aiken
34.	NSA	National Sheriffs' Association	Sheriff Larry D. Amerson
35.	NVFC	National Volunteer Fire Council	Chief C. Reid Vaughan
36.	SEARCH	National Consortium of Justice Information Statistics	Michael Jacobson
37.	USCM	U.S. Conference of Mayors	Tom Sorley
38.	At Large	SAFECOM EC	Mark Grubb
39.	At Large	Fire Non-Management First Line Responder	Pending
40.	At Large	Police Non-Management First Line Responder	Vacant
41.	At Large	Police Non-Management First Line Responder	James N. Mann
42.	Federal	U.S. Department of Homeland Security	Pending
43.	Federal	U.S. Department of Justice	Pending

# Tribal Working Group Organizations



1. AITC .....Alaska Inter-Tribal Council
2. APHA-AI/AN/NH .....American Public Health Association-American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Caucus
3. ARA .....Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Regional Association
4. ATNI .....Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
5. IACP-ICLES.....International Association of Chiefs of Police-Indian Country Law Enforcement Section
6. IAEM-TAC .....International Association of Emergency Managers-Tribal Affairs Caucus
7. NCAI .....National Congress of American Indians
8. NN .....Navajo Nation
9. NNAFCA .....National Native American Fire Chiefs Association
10. NTEMC .....National Tribal Emergency Management Council
11. NWTEMC .....Northwest Tribal Emergency Management Council
12. PSAC EC.....Public Safety Advisory Committee Executive Committee
13. SCTCA.....Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association
14. TCC .....Tanana Chiefs Conference
15. USET .....United South and Eastern Tribes